

# CPUC Tribal Advisor

Kenneth Holbrook



December 10, 2020



# Background Kenneth Holbrook

- Native American - member of the Maidu and the Pit River Tribes of northern California
- Has worked and volunteered for Tribes and tribal organizations for past 20 years
- Worked as a language revitalization researcher and teacher for many years
- Served statewide and national forums related to Tribal inclusion and collaboration building and has led cultural sensitivity workshops for the conservation community



Ken's Mother, sister, and daughter gracing a sampling of his great-great-grandmother's Maidu basket collection

# **Role of the Tribal Advisor**

**Responsible for implementing CPUC's Tribal Consultation Policy by ensuring internal compliance, as well as compliance by CPUC's regulated entities**

**Advise on matters related to the Tribal Land Transfer Policy, e.g. development of the Draft TLTP Guidelines**

**Assist CASF, SGIP, EPIC, and CARES/ESA program staff to encourage tribal participation**

**Assist SED with licensing and enforcement procedure involving entities in Tribal Country**

**Assist staff with matters related to PSPS events and other wildfire preparedness for tribal communities**

**Advise Energy Division with CEQA matters involving AB52 and Tribal concerns, track correspondence from Tribes as they relate to key project objectives**

**Contribute to the LIOB and the DACAG forums, as requested**

**Advise the MREWG on tribal matters in partnership with the CEC**

**Contribute to staff-wide learning platforms related to cultural awareness and effective tribal outreach**



# California Tribes: Increasing Participation

- Recent census data shows that California is home to more people of Native American/ Alaska Native heritage than any other state in the Country
- CA Indian Country is the most populace and diverse, and yet it is the most underfunded region in Native America
- Many low-income savings programs exist under CPUC's authority and yet, too many tribal people remain underserved
- Our goal is to institute, in partnership with CPUC's regulated entities, semi-annual guided learning opportunities that explain and assist with connecting tribal rate-payers to available savings programs
- Ensure that increased attention is given to Public Safety Power Shutoff efforts that occur in Tribal communities
- Our mission, established by CPUC's Tribal Consultation Policy, is to recognize and respect the sovereignty of Tribal governments and engage tribal communities effectively



Tribal Youth Dancer  
©2019 California State Parks



# Policy Goals and 2021 Workplan

- Conduct an internal review of the CPUC Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP), followed by a series of public workshops to determine if updates can improve our policy
- Establish and maintain a regularly updated Tribal Contacts resource located on the CPUC Tribal Resources webpage for use by all our regulated entities. This resource, along with an SOP, would be developed through coordination with State of California's Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Support enactment of the Tribal Land Transfer Policy (TLTP) to best meet the original intent and to ensure that IOUs impacted by TLTP conducts comprehensive, timely, and fair tribal consultations in the process
- Develop and facilitate a semi-annual CPUC policy and programs learning series (initially webinars, conferences when possible) designed for tribal communities

# Useful Resources

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/tribal/>

- Governor Brown's  
Executive Order B-10-11
- CA Assembly Bill 52
- Governor Newsom's Public Apology  
for atrocities suffered by Tribal People
- Volume 8, Handbook of North  
American Indians
- [California's Little Known Genocide](#)  
by Erin Blakemore

"California Native American peoples suffered violence, discrimination and exploitation sanctioned by state government throughout its history. We can never undo the wrongs inflicted on the peoples who have lived on this land that we now call California since time immemorial, but we can work together to build bridges, tell the truth about our past and begin to heal deep wounds."

~ Governor Gavin Newsom

THANK YOU  
for your time today

Kenneth Holbrook

415.793.8522

[Kenneth.Holbrook@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Holbrook@cpuc.ca.gov)

